



Iowa Department of Human Services

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Director

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO.1356

DATE: February 14, 2014

TO: Iowa Medicaid Psychiatric Medical Institutions for Children (PMIC)

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services, Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: Use of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT)

EFFECTIVE: March 1, 2014

Families with children receiving inpatient care have historically utilized NEMT to receive reimbursement for the transportation of family members to participate in therapy at the care facility where the child is located.

In 2013, the IME received clarification from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) regarding the use of NEMT services to transport or reimburse family members to visit or participate in therapy when the member is hospitalized or institutionalized. CMS provided guidance to the IME that NEMT services can only be used when the parent accompanies the child to medical treatment as an escort.

Pursuant to that clarification, the department amended the NEMT rules located in 441 Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 78.13(2). Beginning March 1, 2014, NEMT transportation will no longer be available to provide or reimburse transportation of family members to visit or participate in therapy to the care facility where the member (child) is hospitalized or institutionalized.

The IME requests that PMIC facilities continue to work with the family and Magellan Behavioral Health in how to best provide treatment to our Medicaid members. Questions regarding treatment services can be directed to Steve Johnson at Magellan Behavioral Health at stjohnson@magellanhealth.com or 515-273-5010. Questions regarding NEMT services can be directed to Tim Weltzin at Iowa Medicaid Enterprise at tweltzi@dhs.state.ia.us or (515) 256-4633.